

Serial No.: 10/702,187
Docket No.: FUJ 0017 VA/40929.68

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Remarks**

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-16, and 23 are rejected. Claims 19-22 are allowed. The examiner indicated claims 17 and 18 recite limitations not taught by the prior art, but objected to these claims for being dependent on rejected claim 1. Claims 1, 4, and 16 are amended. No new matter has been entered.

In the office action, the examiner rejected claims 1-12, 15, 16, and 23 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Crane (U.S. 3,363,390). Claims 1 and 13 were rejected under §103(a) as being obvious in light of Dallaire (U.S. D263,754) and Crane. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, because the cited references, singularly or in combination, fail to teach all elements of the claimed invention.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an article-packaging member defining an extruded cross section, wherein the extruded cross section extends along substantially an entire length of the packaging member. The article-packaging member comprises a structural framework formed of a relatively rigid extruded plastic material, a bundling channel formed in the extruded cross section along an exterior face of the article-packaging member and a plurality of non-opposing pliable projections formed of a relatively pliable plastic material extending from the structural framework.

As shown in Figs. 2-5 of Crane, Crane is cited for teaching a member defining an extruded cross section, wherein the member extends substantially the entire length of the member. Crane is also cited for teaching a structural framework and a channel 13 formed in the cross section. Furthermore, the examiner asserts that Crane teaches pliable projections; however, Crane does not teach non-opposing pliable projections as recited in amended claim 1. As shown in Figs. 2-5, Crane discloses flanges 15 (pliable projections) arranged in one or more pairs of opposed flanges on the inner surface of the side walls. (col. 2, lines 47-52). Thus, Crane does

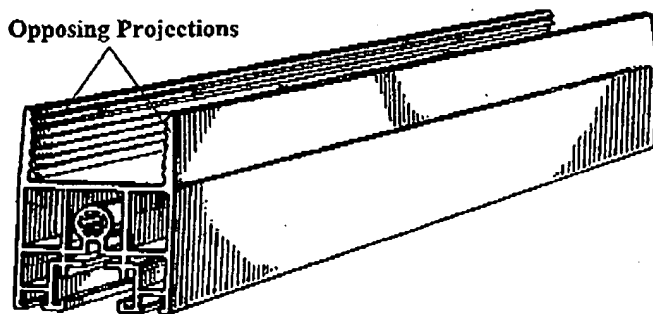
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anticipate the claimed invention, because Crane fails to teach all elements of the claimed invention.

Similarly, Dallaire does not teach non-opposing pliable protections as recited in claim 1. As shown below, Dallaire discloses a channel with pliable projections, wherein the projections are arranged in opposing pairs, like in Crane.



Thus, Dallaire does not teach all of the elements of claim 1. Because Crane also fails to teach this claimed element, the combination of Dallaire and Crane cannot establish a prima facie of obviousness. Moreover, the opposing projections in the cited references function differently than the non-opposing projections recited in the claims. For instance, the claimed non-opposing projections on the external structure may create friction to prevent skidding of the article-packaging member, whereas opposing projections are directed to gripping articles in the internal structure of a window component. Accordingly, claim 1 is in condition for allowance, and consequently all claims dependent on claim 1 are also in condition for allowance.

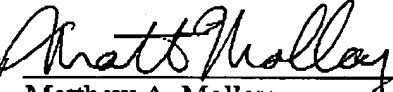
The Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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